

Deans Council
Boardroom BA 290
December 4, 2007

Attendance: Dr. Keith McFarland, Dr. Mary Hendrix, Dr. Allan Headley, Dr. Charlotte Larkin, Dr. Deborrah Hebert, Dr. Hal Langford, Dr. James Klein, Dr. James Vornberg, Dr. Sharon Chambers, Dr. Linda Clinton, Dr. Pamela Webster, Dr. Raymond Green, Dr. Shannon Carter, Darnisha Reed, Dolly Lasater, E. Thayne King, Greg Mitchell, Lisa Rhoades, Noi Prapan, Paige Bussell, Rick Miller, Robert Dotson, Shannon Hoskison, Sharon Fulkerson, Sharon Vice, Stephanie Holley, Stephen Garretson, Suzanne Kiefer, Tim Willett, and Veronica Reed.

Growth Opportunity in Rowlett – Dr. John Harper, Mayor of Rowlett, and Craig Owen, City Manager, presented an overview regarding land in the growth corridor of the Metroplex. One billion dollars is going to be spent to put in a ten (10) mile six (6) lane highway at the intersection of Highway 78 and George Bush turnpike. It will extend from the turnpike to Interstate 30. Construction will begin in June 2008 with scheduled completion in July 2011. The city of Rowlett plans to develop 1,000 acres and will focus on development in the areas of higher education, healthcare, bioscience, information technology, office, retail and industrial businesses. The development of land includes a Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) station to assist residents and visitors with transportation to and from the area. Currently there are plans underway for the development of a new Dallas County Community College District (DCCCD) education center in proximity to the DART station. Features making Rowlett an attractive location for development include 1) access; 2) visibility; 3) proximity; 4) age structure; 5) educational attainment of residents; 6) even distribution of moderately priced homes; 7) highest median household income among neighboring suburbs; 8) DART station; and, 9) development of highways and public roads. The city plans to capture workers currently commuting out of the city of Dallas.

Collin County Community College District (CCCCD) – President McFarland and Dr. Hendrix recently met with the Dr. Israel, CCCCDD President, and Dr. Bob Collins, Chairman of the Board, regarding the higher education center. Dr. Mary Hendrix has been designated as the higher education center contact for Texas A&M University – Commerce. Dr. Hendrix will be meeting with Ms. Brenda Kihl, Associate Vice President of Strategic Initiatives at CCCCDD. Plans are to develop bachelor degree programs and proposals in liberal studies and partnering for a week-end college. President McFarland stressed that all communication regarding programs and courses with CCCCDD should be handled by Dr. Hendrix, who will work with Ms. Kihl.

Honors College – (PDF Document) Dr. Raymond Green provided a brief summary regarding Honors College students experience during their first semester. A survey was taken by the Honors College students that indicated their experience during the fall semester was a successful experience. Students were pleased with the quality of their Honors College courses and professors. The results of the survey were shared with Deans and Directors. In the spring Dr. Green hopes to have a summary of the type of student we

have enrolled in the Honors College. There were a few Honors College students that left the program; however, the students' intent is to remain at the university. Three (2) of the Honors students were selected as Lion Ambassadors.

UPDATES:

Student Financial Aid (SFA) – Ms. Mallory Horne was recently selected as the Assistant Director of Student Financial Aid (Scholarships). Staff have been working with Advancement Division to develop a scholarship application that will apply to all scholarships. The application will be finalized and ready before the end of the semester. SFA is in the process of re-designing their website so that students can have clearer and easier access to scholarship information. Structure is needed regarding criteria used to award scholarships (i.e. grade point average) Scholarships (including housing) should not be awarded without competition.

Action item: Deans Council approved unanimously the recommendation from the scholarship committee that transfer scholarships criteria be revised so that scholarships may be awarded to students who have completed 30 semester credit hours, rather than 45 hours.

Metroplex – The Metroplex Center is in need of extra office space for counseling clinics.

Memorial Student Center (MSC) – The roof of the new MSC is near completion. Within a few weeks, a scheduled power outage will occur so power can be tied into the new center. Completion of the new center for staff move-in is set for early August with a projected opening targeted for Fall 2008. The first floor of the “old” MSC will not be demolished, but will be converted to a one stop shop for many of our enrollment services.

Career Services – Career Services staff are working with students as they come in for advice and guidance on career choices and job interviews. Sharon Fulkerson discussed the idea of a “clothes closet” to assist students with appropriate dress for interviews. This idea will be explored. The need for space was currently identified as an obstacle, but maybe resolved when the one stop shop location is developed.

Instructional Technology – Interviews begin today for candidates in the vacant support staff positions.

TRIO – During December 9 – 13 from 7 p.m. to midnight, there will be study hall available for TRIO students. All departments are encouraged to come and participate. To encourage participation, students can “come as you are” and hot chocolate will be served.

Registrar – Paige Bussell, Registrar, reminded everyone that Friday is the deadline to withdraw or drop classes. Final grades are due no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, December 17. Reminder was given that faculty are needed to assist with leading students and faculty at the commencement ceremony on December 15.

Midlothian – The Midlothian campus is getting a lot of students from the Tarrant County area. The first graduation class at the Midlothian site will graduate in the spring with approximately twenty seven (27) students.

Navarro – Dr. Hubert was pleased to announce that fall 2007 was the smoothest running semester he has ever experienced at the Navarro location.

Enrollment Management – Dr. Hendrix introduced Stephanie Holley as the new Dean of Enrollment Management and Retention Division. Ms Holley is excited about the position and hopes to improve ways of offer better service to faculty, staff and students.

College of Business and Technology (CBT) – Dr. Langford recently received approval from TASBO regarding his proposal. Our university's BAAS program will be available to service personnel on U. S. naval ships. The Baylor College of Dental graduates approximately 95 new dentists annually. CBT is working with the Baylor College of Dental to incorporate our business program into their dental program.

The Deans and Directors meeting was adjourned at 10:15 A.M. The Deans Council convened to discuss enrollment.